

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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CU-02 OES-06 EB-07 COME-00 /089 W
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O R 151702Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1850

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, EC, GW, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AT QUADRIPARTITE AMBASSADORIAL
LUNCHEON, SEPTEMBER 15

REF: BONN 15456

ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE DISCUSSION AT TODAY'S QUADRI-
PARTITE AMBASSADORIAL LUNCH WAS DEVOTED TO THE GERMAN
ELECTORAL SITUATION, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF BERLIN OR
ALL-GERMAN INTEREST WERE ALSO TOUCHED ON:

1. STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
WAS CONCERNED BY THE DELAY IN REACHING AGREEMENT WITHIN
THE BONN GROUP ON AN ALLIED REPLY TO THE SOVIET PROTEST
ON DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. BONN
FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE ALLIED REPLY BE DELIVERED
BEFORE SEPTEMBER 20, ON WHICH DATE THE EC MINISTERS
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WOULD SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON DIRECT ELECTIONS. HE URGED

THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO MOVE AHEAD AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TOWARDS A FINAL TEXT.

2. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID HIS GOVERNMENT PREFERRED TO OMIT REFERENCE TO THE "EXISTING SITUATION", BUT HE THOUGHT WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT SOME REFERENCE TO IT IF REQUIRED TO REACH AGREEMENT. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE STILL THE SAME AS REPORTED BY THE UK REPRESENTATIVE IN YESTERDAY'S BONN GROUP MEETING, BUT HE WAS PREPARED TO GO BACK TO LONDON ONCE AGAIN IF ANY NEW ARGUMENTS AGAINST REFERENCE TO THE "EXISTING SITUATION" COULD BE PUT FORWARD. HE WOULD IN ANY CASE STRESS TO LONDON THE GERMAN DESIRE FOR SPEED. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S ARGUMENTS HAD ALREADY BEEN FULLY STATED IN THE BONN GROUP, BUT THAT AN ADDITIONAL POINT MIGHT BE THAT TO REST OUR CASE ON THE ABSENCE OF CHANGE IN THE "EXISTING SITUATION" MIGHT LATER LEAVE US OPEN, SHOULD THE POWERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BE ENHANCED, TO A CLAIM BY THE SOVIETS THAT, SINCE THE "EXISTING SITUATION" WAS THEN OBVIOUSLY BEING CHANGED, THEY HAD A RIGHT, UNDER THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, TO DISCUSS AND, IN FACT, TO VETO SUCH A CHANGE. WE HAD NOT, HOWEVER, RECEIVED ANY WASHINGTON VIEWS AS YET ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING A SINGLE REFERENCE, RATHER THAN THE THREE IN THE EARLIER TEXT, TO THE "EXISTING SITUATION" AS DISCUSSED IN YESTERDAY'S BONN GROUP MEETING (REPORTED REFTEL).

3. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND'S QUERY AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE BEHIND REPORTS WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATING IN BONN ABOUT A POSSIBLE NEW FRG DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TOWARDS THE GDR AND THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT REMAIN IN POWER AFTER THE ELECTIONS, GEHLHOFF COMMENTED THAT THIS WHOLE BUSINESS HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT OVERBLOWN. NEITHER THE CHANCELLOR NOR FOREIGN

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15516

MINISTER GENSCHER HAD ANY NEW MAJOR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN MIND. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF NEGOTIATIONS, SUCH AS THAT OF PAYMENT FOR NON-BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS, CURRENTLY UNDER WAY WITH THE GDR, WHICH MIGHT WELL COME TO FRUITION DURING THE NEXT MONTHS. AS FAR AS THE SOVIETS WERE CONCERNED, THERE WERE, OF COURSE, ALWAYS THE THREE AGREEMENTS ON LEGAL ASSISTANCE, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES, WHICH HAD BEEN HELD UP SO LONG BECAUSE OF THE BERLIN PROBLEM. THERE WOULD BE AN EFFORT MADE TO BRING THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO SOME SORT OF FINAL CONCLUSION AFTER THE ELECTIONS (AS GENSCHER HAD RECENTLY TOLD FALIN) BUT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, GEHLHOFF SAID HE SAW CONTINUING DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING THIS GOAL BECAUSE AGREEMENT WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS

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BY ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER.

4. THERE WOULD, OF COURSE, ALSO BE NORMAL DISCUSSION OF COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE FRG, GEHLHOFF CONTINUED, AND HE ASSUMED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A BREZHNEV VISIT WOULD AGAIN BECOME ACTIVE AFTER THE ELECTIONS, IF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT REMAINED IN POWER. HE RECALLED THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO BREZHNEV DURING HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW IN THE FALL OF 1974, THAT TENTATIVE DISCUSSION OF SUCH A VISIT LAST SPRING HAD TAKEN PLACE BUT

PROVED ABORTIVE, BUT THAT BREZHNEV HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO VISIT THE FRG AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER THERE REALLY WAS A CHANCE OF BREZHNEV'S COMING UNLESS SOME AGREEMENTS COULD BE SIGNED IN BONN, FOR EXAMPLE THE THREE MENTIONED BY GEHLHOFF. THE LATTER ACKNOWLEDGED THE SOVIET LEADER'S PROPENSITY FOR SIGNING AGREEMENTS DURING VISITS, BUT ADDED THAT THE FRG WOULD NOT MAKE CONCLUSION OF THE THREE AGREEMENTS A PREREQUISITE FOR A VISIT. HILLENBRAND

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